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PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, CAIRO

190813
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

April 6, 1955
DATE

REF :

15 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
	NEA-4	ARM/R-2 061-6 EUR-5 EUR/X-1 U/O P-1
	4/15	CIA-7 OCB-1 USIA-4 ARMY-4 NAVY-3 AIR-3

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PRISONERS STAGE PHONY HUNGER STRIKE

During the final week of March an "explanatory note", presumably originating from local Egyptian Communists was sent by mail to the office of one of the United Nations agencies in Cairo. This note which outlined the conditions faced by Communists detained in Egyptian prisons, made no request or appeal for aid or intervention although it was surmised by the UN officials in Cairo that the sender hoped to have the conditions of Egypt's political prisoners reviewed by the Human Rights Commission. The note stated that the prison officials did not comply with the meager rights given to prisoners under prison statutes and that the food did not meet minimum requirements to maintain life. According to this statement, political prisoners are often shut up in their cells twenty-four hours per day without light. In one case, it continued, the prisoners were poisoned by the food and early in November 1954 the Communist prisoners were beaten with whips "for no apparent reason."

Faced with these conditions, the note stated, the Communist prisoners held at the Adult Reformatory Prison decided on March 11 to go on a hunger strike, and in retaliation the prison authorities took away their bedding and refused permission for visitors who normally brought food, medicines and clothing to the prisoners to visit the prison. The note concluded, "The struggling Communist prisoners who are joined by all the democratic forces in Egypt and all the world have a deep confidence in their ultimate victory".

A reliable source acquainted with a police officer assigned at this prison confirmed that the prisoners were on a hunger strike during March. He stated that generally the political prisoners were unruly, difficult to handle and the authorities are compelled to treat them harshly in order to keep them under control. This source stated that he had been informed by the police officer that after the prisoners had gone without food for several days the authorities noticed that they still appeared to be amazingly energetic and did not show the apparent signs of not having eaten. Eventually the authorities began to suspect that the prisoners had an unknown source of nourishment and upon making a thorough search of the cells and prison grounds they found a large quantity of vitamin and mineral pills valued at over L.E. 150. After the pills were seized the strike came to an end immediately.

During the search of the prison, it was also discovered that the Communists were printing pamphlets on a crudely devised presses for circulation throughout the prison. The presses were made from flat pieces of wood that were coated with wax

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REPORTER

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APR 11 1955

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Desp. No. 1908
From CAIRO

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Page _____ of
Encl. No. _____
Desp. No. _____
From _____

upon which the content of the pamphlet was etched. The authorities reportedly have acknowledged that it was possible for the small quantities of paper and ink used in these pamphlets to be smuggled into the prison unnoticed.

COMMENT:

This incident is of significance principally because it demonstrates that the Communist prisoners will go to great lengths to keep up their militancy and that they have support from outside the prison. According to information received from other sources and in view of that which is generally known about Egyptian prisons, the conditions described in the Communist note are probably not greatly exaggerated.

One motive behind this incident and the note was probably an attempt on the part of the Communists to offset the good publicity that the regime received with respect to prison reform when the practice of shackling prisoners was discontinued.

HAB
Henry A. Byroade
per *[signature]*

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3/1/5

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File Designation

774.001/10-1155

TEL 3-12 USITO 123

Date

11 Oct 55

From

USIA

To

London

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10/13 NE-~~103~~

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1. ~~John~~ L.H

Memo 10-11 to FHR from Amb. Heath, USUN re
allegations of communist infiltration in Nasser
Government

ETHD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Office Memorandum UNITED STATES MISSION

TO : Mr. Francis Russell - NEA

DATE: October 11, 1955

FROM : Ambassador Donald Heath *alt*

SUBJECT: Allegations of Communist Infiltration in Nasser Government

Paul Ward of the Baltimore Sun showed me a blast against the Nasser government prepared by Egyptian exiles living in Switzerland. He particularly asked whether allegations of communist infiltration in the Nasser government were at all founded. I told him I had no specific information but, off the record, that that accusation had been made by responsible officials in Lebanon.

He asked whether it was true that one ex-Judge Ahmad Fouad, described as Secretary-General of the Communist Central Committee in Egypt, had an official relationship with the present regime in Egypt and also whether one Dr. Rashed El-Barraoni, reportedly President of the Industrial Bank, was in fact a notorious pro-communist.

I do not know whether we have the information on these two individuals and whether it would be proper to turn it over to Ward in confidence and orally. Ward works very well with our delegation here.

DIRECTOR

OCT 13 1955

OFFICE OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL

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AUG 21 1955

United Nations
U.S. Mission
From

INCOMING TELEGRAM

✓ Department of State

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OCT 25 1955

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Action

EUR

FROM: PARIS (VIA POUCH)

Control: 12166

Rec'd: OCTOBER 24, 1955
1:43 PM

Info
RMR

TO: Secretary of State

GW

SS

NO: 1957, OCTOBER 21, 8 PM

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CIA

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SENT DEPARTMENT 1957, REPEATED INFORMATION CAIRO, MOSCOW UNNUM-
BERED.

AS MARGINAL NOTE TO RECENT SOVIET EFFORTS TO ENHANCE COMMUNIST
INFLUENCE IN MIDDLE AND NEAR EAST, AND PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION
WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIAN ARMS SALES TO EGYPT, IT IS OF SOME INTEREST
THAT TODAY'S L'HUMANITE CARRIES ITEM REGARDING FATE 140 "PATRIOTS
ACCUSED OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES". PAPER ASSERTS THAT THESE EGYPT-
TIANS ARE SUBJECT TO DEATH PENALTY, OR, AT BEST, "DEPORTATION IN
THE DESERT". IT CALLS UPON ITS READERS TO BOMBARD EGYPTIAN
EMBASSY PARIS WITH PROTESTS, EXACT STREET ADDRESS OF WHICH IT IS
CAREFUL TO GIVE.

COMMENT: IT IS OF COURSE OBVIOUS THAT SOVIET MOTIVATIONS IN
FURNISHING ARMS TO EGYPT ARE IN CERTAIN RESPECTS DIFFERENT FROM
LOCAL INTERESTS EGYPTIAN COMMUNISTS, AS, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE USSR
STATE INTERESTS IN SUPPORT ATATURK AS CONTRASTED APPARENT INDIF-
ERENCE SOVIETS TO FATE TURKISH COMMUNISTS.

DILLON

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7-11-68

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, CAIRO

336

COPY NO. 1 **SERIES A**

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 7, 1956
DATE

REF :

71 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
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	2/21	R-112 REP OLI EUR LA B CIA USIA ARMY NAVY AIR

SUBJECT: APPEAL BY JAILED EGYPTIAN COMMUNISTS

The reporting officer has learned from the British Labor Counselor of Embassy of a signed letter from nine jailed Egyptian communists to the British Trade Union Congress. The letter, which was smuggled out of Tourah Prison Camp, appealed to the TUC to exert pressure on the British Government to make a protest, to the Egyptian Government, regarding their allegedly deplorable living and working conditions. According to the British Labor Counselor the men were sentenced, about two years ago, to varying terms of hard labor by an Egyptian military tribunal.

The TUC has not acknowledged the letter and intends to take no formal action, although TUC officials informally have asked the British Embassy in Cairo to look into the matter.

According to British intelligence information, the men sentenced were "blackguards and out and out communists". It is understood that since the letter was smuggled out of the prison camp the prisoners have been taken further into the interior of the desert.

The letter was signed by the following men, whose titles and sentences are noted:

MOHAMED MOHAMED CHATTA:

Worker, Secretary of the Committee of Workers' Syndicate of Coubrah El Kheima. Sentenced to 10 years hard labor.

CHERIF HETATA:

Doctor, 10 years hard labor.

HALIM TOUSSOUN:

Student journalist. 10 years hard labor.

ZAKI MOURAD:

Lawyer. Member of National Committee of Peace Partisans. 8 years hard labor.

SECRET

CCF:inch/mpd
REPORTER

FEB 14 1956

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From Ambassy, Cairo

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Encl. No. _____
Desp. No. _____
From _____

KHALIL KASSEM:

Journalist. 3 years hard labor.

AHMED TAMA:

Worker. Secretary of Marconi Workers' Syndicate: Member of Preparatory Committee of Egyptian Federation of Syndicates.

MOUSEY MOHAMED HASSAN:

Worker. 5 years hard labor.

ABDEL LATIF GAMAL:

Employee. 5 years hard labor.

SAAD EL DINE KAMEL:

Lawyer. Member of World Peace Council. 5 years hard labor.

FOR THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, a.i.:

C. C. Finch

C. C. Finch
Labor Attache

Distribution:
Alexandria
Port Said
Vienna

SECRET

NND 897403
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Date

21 Feb 56

From

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To

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XX 781.001 *RG*

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMCONSULATE, PORT SAID

27
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

April 12, 1956
DATE

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION <i>NEA 4</i>	DEPT. <i>Rm/K-2 OLI-6 EUR/X-1 SY-2</i>
	REC'D <i>4/18</i>	OTHER <i>CIA-7 USIA-10 ARMY-4 NAVY-3</i>

SUBJECT: Two Greek Communists Deported

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(2) The Consulate has been reliably informed that two Greek Communist, Spyros GLARIDIS and Elie TSOUKALAS, were deported on April 11, 1956. They were put aboard the S. S. Aeolia bound for Piraeus.

The two Communists had been caught by the Egyptian police with Communist pamphlets in their possession which they intended to distribute. They were given and served three year prison terms.

The Greek Consulate here is aware of their departure and presumably has informed the appropriate authorities in Greece.

Anthony Cuomo
Anthony Cuomo,
American Consul

cc - AmEmbassy, Cairo
AmEmbassy, Athens

774.001/4-1256

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 13, 1956

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION REC'D 7/19	DEPT. I N F O R m k-2 EUR 5 EUR/4-1 d-6 P-1 "los-2" July 13 Civ 2 45.1910 OCB-1 Army-y July 13
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SUBJECT: Communist Party Members Fined and Sentenced to Prison Terms

On 28 June 1956 the Supreme Military Court sentenced 40 Communist Party members to prison terms varying from two to ten years and fines ranging from 50 to 200 Egyptian Pounds (£1 - \$2.85) and ordered the dissolution of the Egyptian Communist Party apparatus and the confiscation of its property. The Court acquitted twenty-nine others. (However, according to a British Embassy source, the Government has re-arrested the twenty-nine and plans to re-try them in the Civil Courts. Such re-trials are permitted under Article 2 of the Proclamation of June 26 suspending martial law.) The trial of the sixty-nine persons accused of "having conspired to overthrow the fundamental principles of society" was the last case to be considered by a military court following the abolition of martial law. (See Enclosure 1 for the specific sentences, names and occupations of the defendants.)

The defendants included sixty-eight young men and one young woman. Although they represented a wide variety of social and economic backgrounds, the majority were students and teachers. They were charged with having directed and organized (until 15 June 1955) a secret Communist organization dedicated to the implementation of Communist principles and specifically to the domination of society by one class through the use of violence, tyranny and other unlawful means. They operated in Cairo, Alexandria, and throughout the Republic. A total of 205 had been arrested, but all except the sixty-nine defendants were released for lack of evidence.

The case dates back to 1950 when the security police first began to place the members of the organization under surveillance. The first cell was rounded up in 1953. The order for the arrest of the members was issued on 26 February 1954, and the official statement of charges was drawn up 17 March 1956. The trial was begun 9 June 1956. Stocks of leaflets and other printed matter had been seized as well as mimeographing machines and printing equipment.

The interrogation of the accused which was conducted by Muhammad Ahmed al Shirbini, the First Deputy of the State Parquet and eight of his assistants required 128 sittings. The prosecutor's report filled 3300 pages. The case was heard by Mahmoud Abd al Latif. The defendants were represented by 138 lawyers, most of whom were appointed by the court.

On 2 July 1956 the courts took action in a second case involving the Egyptian Communist Party when they released on bail nine of the forty persons (including

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HGHandyside:mhw
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Desp. No. 42
From Cairo

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Desp. No. _____
From _____

three girls) arrested as a result of the raids at Zagazig in February of this year. No information about the case nor about the date of trial has as yet been made public.

COMMENT:

The timing of these cases is interesting. The trial of the "69" took place immediately before the visit of Shepilov to Cairo and although the verdict was not announced until after his departure, the case was certainly intended to serve as reaffirmation of the Government's policy of firmly repressing organized subversive elements. The trial of the "40" as well as the retrial of the 29 acquitted by the military courts will presumably take place more or less simultaneously with Nasser's projected visit to the Soviet Union.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:



Alexander Schnee
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

✓ Enclosure: (UNCLASSIFIED) 

List of sentences, names and
occupations of the defendants
in the Communist Party trial

cc: Amman
Baghdad
Beirut
Damascus
Jidda
London
Paris
Alexandria
Port Said
Khartoum
Moscow


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ALL PAPERS, June 29, 1956

The Supreme Military Court announced the following verdicts in the case of the Egyptian Communist Party.

A. 7 years imprisonment with hard labor and a fine of £ 200 for each:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Daoud Aziz Abdel Malek | Painter |
| 2. Abdel Aziz Ahmed Awad | Accountant |
| 3. Toussan Kerullos Saad | Employee, National Bank of Egypt |
| 4. William Tanius | Manager, Electric Workshop |
| 5. Said Mustafa Hammad | Laborer, Printing press at Alexandria |
| 6. Darwish Mustafa Mohamed | Commercial agent |
| 7. Maysour al Sayed Shalaby | Unemployed worker |
| 8. Mohamed al Sayed Shalaby | Clerk, Egyptian State Railways |
| 9. Ibrahim Mustafa al Bayoumi | Unemployed worker |
| 10. Mitwally Mohamed Bahr | Secretary of school |

B. 5 years hard labor and a fine of £ 200:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 11. Raouf Nazmy Michael | Medical student |
| 12. Mohamed Yahia al Nawawy | School teacher |
| 13. Mustafa Kamel Taha | Engineer |
| 14. Sarwat Elias Salama | Medical student |
| 15. Magdi Elias Salama | Medical student |
| 16. Mahmud Hamdy Khalil al Baguri | Secondary student |
| 17. Nabil Hilmy Iskandar | Faculty of Art student |
| 18. Ahmed Aly Hamed | Laborer |
| 19. Zarif Sidra Muhareb | Medical student |

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20. Ahmed Abdel al Zokm

School teacher (absconded)

21. Gamal Abdel Malik

Student (absconded)

22. Mohamed Hosni Mohamed Hussein

Engineering student

C. 3 years imprisonment and £ 100 fine:

23. Abd al Latif Ali al Hindawi

Unemployed worker

24. Abdel Moneim Abdel Aziz Badr

Hair dresser

25. Mohamed Sherif al Hag

Bus conductor at Alexandria

26. Abdel Aziz Abdel Meguid Metwally

Plumber

27. Saudi Mohamed Mathana

Plumber

28. Nasha't Iskandar Abadeer

Unemployed worker

29. Abdel Raouf Salem

Laborer

30. Abdu Hassan Makkauri

Carpenter

31. Said Ghali Gadalla

Clerk, Giza Cooperative
Society

32. Ahmed Abdel Ghaffar Kassim

Merchant

D. 2 years imprisonment and £ 50 fine:

33. Adly Barsoum Abdel Malek

School teacher

34. Rifky Kamel Kerullos

Veterinarian

35. Mahmud al Said Aly al Gamal

Engineering Student

36. Mahamed Rawash al Deeb

Medical student

37. Abdel Meguid Shafik

Clerk, Heliopolis Club

38. Abdel Rahim Hafez al Mallah

Taxes executive, Abdine
District

39. Mahmoud Ahmed Hammouda

Agricultural student

40. Mohamed Fathy Hammouda

Faculty of Arts student

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E. Acquitted

41. Dr. Ismail Sabri Abdalla	Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Cairo University
42. Mohamed Mahmud Abul Ela	Deputy, Government Litigation Office
43. Ghoneim Mustafa Ghoneim	Mechanic
44. Abdel Latif Ismail Hafez	Accountant
45. Adel Mahmud Seif al Nasr	Accountant
46. Ismail Hafez Fahmy	Faculty of Law
47. Mahamed Sayed Ahmed Sherif	School teacher
48. Shukry Azer Asaad	Medical student
49. Rizk Abdel Messih Morcoss	Medical student
50. Ahmed Gamal al Din Allam	Ex-captain (absconded)
51. Phillip Zaky Galal	Faculty of Law (absconded)
52. Mustafa al Nahas Babr	Student
53. Abd al Aziz Abdel Hamid Khater	Owner of mechanic workshop
54. Khalid Abdel Kawy Zahran	Student
55. Abdel Wahab Mustafa Khudeir	Student, Wireless Institute
56. Amin Mustafa Abu Higla	Student
57. Nakid Gamil al Dakkak	Student, St. Joseph School, Daher
58. Miss Amal Khalil Abd al Nur	Typist
59. Ahmed Osman al Dinkalawi	Faculty of Law
60. Ramsis Phillip Shehata	Medical student
61. Fuad Aziz Surial	Signalman, State Railways
62. Zakaria Hashem Mohamed	Employee, Ministry of Wakfs
63. Khairy Hanna Yunan	Storekeeper

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Desp. No. _____
From _____

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Page **4** of
Encl. No. **1**
Desp. No. **42**
From **Cairo**

64. Ismail Abdel Samieh Soliman	Printer
65. Adel Abdel Rahim Ghoneim	Lawyer
66. Mahmud Aly Shams al Din	Engineering student
67. Mahram Faheem Ibrahim	Student
68. Samy Fahim Abdel Messih	Student
69. Saad Aly Saleh	Unemployed worker

F. Ordered the dissolution of the Party's organizations, the confiscation of the seized property, and the closing of all its branches.

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Department of State

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FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1905, OCTOBER 23, 8 PM

Control: 13658
Rec'd: OCTOBER 23, 1956
11:24 PM

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HBS

SENT DEPARTMENT 1905, REPEATED INFORMATION CAIRO, LONDON, ROME, TRIPOLI, BENGHAZI, TUNIS UNNUMBERED.

REPRESENTATIVE OF COMMITTEE FOR FREE EGYPT HAS CONTACTED EMBASSY WITH INFORMATION COLLECTED BY HIS COMMITTEE ON SUPPORT GIVEN TO COMMUNISM IN EGYPT BY NASSER REGIME. SOURCE HAS WORKED HIS WAY INTO CONFIDENCE PARTI COMMUNISTE EGYPTIEN UNIFIE A L'ETRANGER AND NOW SERVES AS LIAISON BETWEEN THIS GROUP AND EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HERE. SOURCE TURNED OVER TO EMBASSY FOR PHOTOGRAPHING CONTENTS POUCH FROM PCEU REPEAT PCEU DESTINED EGYPTIAN EMBASSY TO KEEP LATTER INFORMED OF PARTY'S ACTIVITIES. SOURCE STATES EGYPTIAN CULTURAL ATTACHE PARIS SAAD EL-DINE IS KNOWN COMMUNIST AND EMPLOYS SUBORDINATE CP MEMBER "GAMAL" WHO IS LEADER EGYPTIAN COMMUNIST STUDENTS IN AREA. MILITARY ATTACHE, COUSIN OF SOURCE, SAID TO BE VERY LEFTIST. DESPATCHES FOLLOW.

DILLON

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1956 OCT 24 AM 7 19

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Via Air Pouch

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

From : The American Embassy, Paris

Desp. No. 692

To : The Department of State, Washington

Date: October 23, 1956

Subject: Communist Infiltration in Egypt.

ACTUAL
INEX*
INFO:
RMIR
OKP
EUR
CIA
OSD
ARMY
NAVY
AFB
OCB
USIA

Mr. Fahmi IZZAT, who claims to be an Egyptian correspondent formerly with Al Misri (which was reportedly closed down by the Government three years ago), recently informed an officer of the Embassy that Colonel NASSER was not only sympathetic to but also supporting Communist infiltration into Egypt.

Mr. Izzat claimed that he was one of a large group of Egyptians, located both within and without Egypt, who were closely following the penetration of Communism in Egypt as well as the activities of an Egyptian Communist party outside of Egypt known as the Parti Communiste Egyptien Unifie a l'Etranger (PCEU).

The activities of Mr. Izzat's group, which was subsequently referred to as the Committee for a Free Egypt, have turned up many interesting pieces of evidence indicating the quasi-official support given to the Communist Party by the present Nasser regime. One of the Committee members reported having seen an Egyptian, Waggi ABAZZA, in Vienna who claimed he was on his way back to Cairo from Moscow with funds, newsprint, and articles to establish a Russian-sponsored monthly magazine which will bear the same name and have the same format as Al Mokhtar, which, Mr. Izzat said, is the Arabic language version of the Readers Digest.

Mr. Izzat claimed that the Cultural Attache at the Egyptian Embassy, Mr. Ahmed SAAD EL-DINE, was a known member of the Communist Party. Working with him in the same office, though not a diplomat, is another Egyptian Communist known simply as "GAMAL". According to Mr. Izzat, the PCEU cell in Paris frequently contacts the Egyptian Embassy for guidance, possibly through Saad El-Dine.

The recent activities of the PCEU had been summarized in a document, copy of which Mr. Izzat showed the Embassy Officer, indicating the publications regarding the Suez Canal which had been distributed by the PCEU, the meetings which had been held, and the siBYNCHTEN "Contacts with Egyptian Embassy for Direction and Guidance".

Other PCEU cells exist in various other capitals, Mr. Izzat continued. Yussef HILMI, one of the most dangerous Egyptian Communists, headed the cell at Rome while Abdel-Azim ANNIS, also a well-known Communist, headed the office in London.

POL:JDorman:jj

SECRET

SECRET FILE

Egypt 11-3-56
11-6-56

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NEW CENTER
Mr. Izzat

S E C R E T

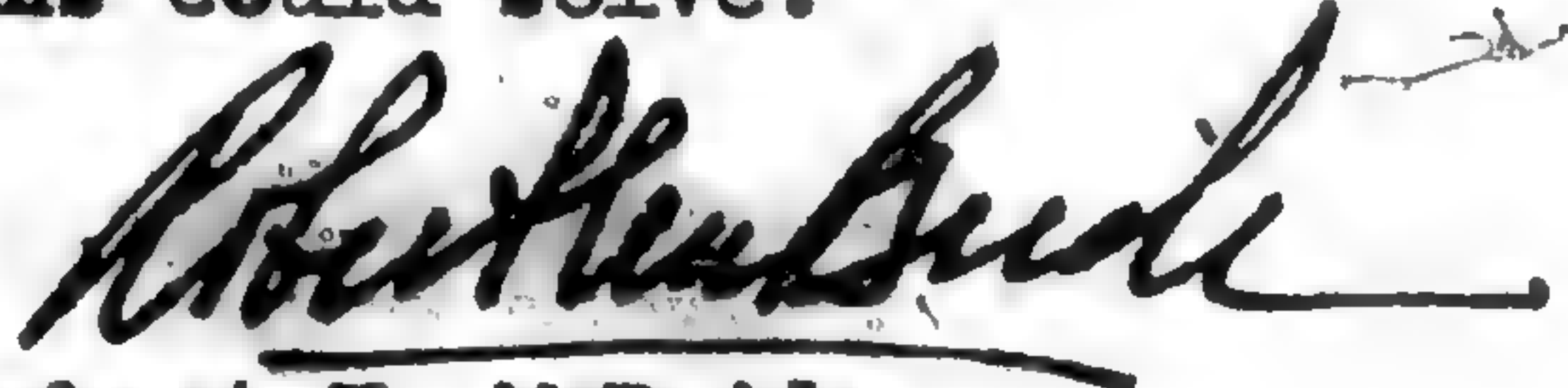
Page 2
Desp. No. 692
Paris, France

Mr. Izzat said that his group had contacted the French Security on this problem and had received a certain amount of cooperation. However, the French were more interested in finding evidence which would lead to the immediate overthrow of the Nasser regime rather than combatting the long-term problem of Communist activities in Egypt. Mr. Izzat's colleagues, on the other hand, do not appear to be bent on Nasser's overthrow, but rather are keeping their fingers on Communists and Communist sympathizers within Egypt whose influence can be neutralized as soon as there is a change in the Egyptian Government regime.

Mr. Izzat stated that Nasser was a Communist in 1948 but had since resigned from the Party. Despite his outward appearance of being pro-Western and anti-Communist, Nasser was still very much attracted by Communism and gave it his support. On several occasions, according to Mr. Izzat, some of Nasser's clique had told Americans resident in Cairo that Nasser has dismissed specific public officials for being Communists, a ruse which, Mr. Izzat added, the naive Americans often believed. The recent Communist tactic of trying to rationalize the Communist principle with Islamism has had great influence among the fellaheen, Mr. Izzat said. To say that Communism would never take hold in Egypt was mere wishful thinking.

Mr. Izzat handed the Embassy Officer the enclosure which, he said, was written by an Egyptian diplomat who had been prematurely "retired", like most of the Egyptian career diplomats. Mr. Izzat requested that the enclosed document be considered as "confidential". Mr. Izzat suggested that the enclosed document might be sent not only to Cairo but to other of our posts "such as Rome and Tunis" for verification.

Mr. Izzat said that although he wanted the United States Government to be aware of the problem of Communism in Egypt today, there was at present very little that any other country could do. This, he added, was an internal, Egyptian problem which only the Egyptians could solve.



Robert H. McBride
First Secretary of Embassy

Copies to:

Cairo, London, Rome, Tripoli,
Benghazi, Tunis.

Enclosure: 

Document "confidential".

S E C R E T

Cleared in Draft - Mr. Stoessel



IS THE EGYPTIAN SITUATION COMMUNIST? FOR WASHINGTON

An Arab Diplomat answers the question positively
for an American friend.

September 10, 1956

This is a first hand report on the communist version and conspiracy in Egypt, compiled with the assistance of some most reliable and best informed friends. This is not by far the complete story - but the information is sufficient to justify the anxiety of London and Washington over the Egyptian situation. In fact many of our responsible Egyptian friends take the view that even after the removal of Nasser, it will take many years and a huge financial assistance to eradicate communism from that country.

The time has come for action and for a dynamic Western policy with view to put an end to the Egyptian tragedy. The communist cancer has spread beyond the Egyptian frontiers. It is powerful in Syria (as you know) and in Iraq. Tarazi, a communist, is the secretary general of the Arab League Foreign Office and making serious progress in his work among the Palestinian refugees. I have a very strong feeling that a "Greek-style" tragedy is being played out in the Middle East. The danger is that the full horror is given to the world before the situation is brought under control. We must have a "Greek-style" tragedy in the Middle East.

Introduction

For the purpose of this report, the following points are taken into consideration:

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and trade to the Iron Curtain countries.

7. Another staunch supporter of Nasser, is Mr. Ibrahim Badr Pasha, a member of the Council of Ministers. He must be considered to him before his position is clear. He is a communist. He is responsible for the agreement reached recently with Russia on the Atomic laboratory. The treachery of the agreement is seen in the fact that Abdel Nasser made this agreement while Nasser was giving a message to Byroade that Egypt will accept the American Atomic laboratory.

It is the same, Abdel Nasser is now directing the Atomic Energy Commission of the Egyptian Government, where he is naturally bringing the Egyptian Government to cooperate with Russia in the field of the Atomic Energy, a point of view which is shared by the Soviet Union, Iran and Syria. Russia has already been working with Iran and Syria.

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and is more realistic than the line of communist propa-
ganda. Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and the
Russian satellite states are all in the
situation and we have seen how and how serious
spoused quickly the communist line in the Chinese or Korean
communist military camps.

The bulk of the people is not really interested
because more realistic. This country is more concerned with
bread and for that reason, is now regretting the rule of
Nahas Pasha or even Farouk.

33. An effort is being made by the Anglo-Saxon Embassies
to combat this communist propaganda. The American Embassy
publishes and distributes a weekly "All-Week" along with
other publications in Arabic. The British Embassy are invited to
the United States and the Russian Embassy are invited to
are getting in for a very large library
gigantic effort is being made by the Anglo-Saxon Embassies,
which also enjoy government support and management.

As a matter of fact, the British and American are dis-
couraged by the attitude of the Egyptian people of Chief
of the Police, who is a very close friend of the Chief
to the USA and who is very much interested to go

It is also a fact that the Egyptian people has
little interest in the communist propaganda. The flow of
America. The flow of wheat. The flow of wheat. The flow of wheat.
Hasser to publish a wide publicity to the people made with Russia.

34. Another attempt is being made to combat this
tation in the Arab world. The American Embassy is
the Arab world. The American Embassy is the Arab world.
The American Embassy is the Arab world. The American Embassy is the Arab world.

successively tried to arouse Allal El Fassi against the popular Sultan, Sidi Mohamed Ben Youssef, later he tried to arouse Emir Abdel Krim against the Sultan. He has failed even though Allal El Fassi and Abdel Krim have been adopting a fluid attitude toward the Sultan.

But if the Istiqlal Party takes over the government you can be sure that Nasser will then give full support to the minority parties.

The communist conspiracy hiding behind Nasser is better seen in the Tunisian and Algerian tests. After the conclusion of the Tunisian-French agreement and a complete support to it by the Tunisian people, Nasser's communist friends in the Military Intelligence gave some 150 million francs to Salah Ben Youssef to continue his opposition to Bourguiba. This led to a little civil war between Tunisian patriots. The Rebellion of Ben Youssef, a well-known corrupt and ambitious politician, failed and Tunisia achieved independence. Did Nasser put an end to his hostility toward Bourguiba? NO. Egypt's objective was not independence for Tunisia but agitation in the interests of the frustrated little group of Tunisian communists. You can be sure that the stocks of Tunisian communists will go up as soon as Nasser establishes his cultural bureau in Tunis. Of course he might have then disappeared ...!

The case of Algeria is even more striking. If Nasser had at heart the interest of the Algerian people, he would have naturally extended support, financial or diplomatic, to the man who has been fighting for Algerian national independence: Messali Hadj. This leader has spent the last twenty years of his thirty-year old struggle in jail or exile. He is presently under military guard at Rele Isle, France. His Party was the ONLY party that has been fighting for Algerian national independence. What did Nasser do? He violently engaged in a campaign to discredit the leader of Algerian nationalism, accusing him of being a traitor. Nasser arrested Messali's representatives in Cairo, Ahmed Megana and Ghadly Mekki, who have been in jail since August. Nasser offered assistance diplomatic and financial to a handful of young Algerians (who are completely under his grip) and to men like Ferhat Abbass, Tewfik Boukhalil and Mekki, who have never taken part in the real struggle for Algerian independence. The reason for Nasser's support to well-known pro-French Algerians and for his hostility toward Messali, is a very simple one. Messali who enjoys great popularity and is the hero of the labour class, is the only man who has been attacking the French Empire. For this reason, the communist Party in France has been attacking Nasser for his support to the Front for Liberation against France.

Via Air Pouch

SECRET

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

From : The American Embassy, Paris

To : The Department of State, Washington

Ref : Embassy Despatch 692, October 23, 1956

Desp. No. 694

Date: October 23, 1956

Subject: Transmitting Copies of PCEU Documents.

On October 22 Mr. El Abed BOUHAFI, formerly New York Representative for the Committee of Freedom for Africa and currently representing the Mouvement National Algerien, called at the Embassy en route from London to Rome. Mr. Bouhafa indicated that an old friend of his, an Egyptian journalist by the name of IZZAT, was currently in Paris participating in the activities of the Committee for Free Egypt, a Committee whose aim was to combat Communism in and outside of Egypt (see reference despatch). Mr. Bouhafa reported that his friend Mr. Izzat was, within the hour, contacting a representative of the Parti Communiste Egyptien Unifié à l'Etranger and from him would obtain a "valise" containing certain documents summarizing the activities of the PCEU in Paris.

Subsequently, Mr. Bouhafa and the Embassy officer lunched together and Mr. Izzat appeared, apparently by previous arrangement with Mr. Bouhafa, with the contents of the "valise" which he had just obtained.

Mr. Izzat explained that he had established close contacts both in the PCEU, who regarded him as a Communist sympathizer, and in the Egyptian Embassy. He had recently been given the job of liaison between these two groups. The "valise" had been entrusted to Mr. Izzat by a member of the PCEU, to be turned over to the Egyptian Embassy in order that the Egyptian Embassy could be informed of the PCEU's activities. Mr. Izzat left the "valise" with the Embassy Officer overnight. Photostats of the key document entitled "Summary of the Work Accomplished by the PCEU Abroad" and a copy of "Redaction d'une ligne de Travail" in Arabic are forwarded in single copy to Washington and Cairo as Enclosure No. 1. A listing of certain other documents in the "valise" is forwarded as Enclosure No. 2 to all posts.

Mr. Izzat said that he was instructed by the PCEU to inform the Egyptian Embassy of a joint meeting to take place that same night at which both PCEU and Egyptian Embassy representatives would be present. To illustrate the precautions taken in arranging such a PCEU meeting, Mr. Izzat said that he had known for some time that such a meeting would take place, but not until that same day had he been informed of the date, time, and location of the meeting, information which, in his role as liaison, he would pass on to the Embassy.

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Page 2
Desp. No. 694
Paris, France.

Mr. Izzat had, the previous evening, met "Gamal" at the Egyptian Embassy (see reference despatch). He confirmed the fact that "Gamal" was not only a strong Communist but was the leader of the Egyptian Communist students in Paris. Colonel Saroit OKACHA, Egyptian Military Attache, was very much of a progressiste, Mr. Izzat said, "and I'm ashamed to say he is a cousin of mine". Reaffirming that the Cultural Attache, Ahmed SAAD EL-DINE, was a member of the Communist Party, Mr. Izzat said not all the Embassy staff were leftist. He thought Salah Eldin HASSAN, First Secretary, was innocent of the activities of his Egyptian colleagues but he was sure that the Ambassador was aware of the Embassy's liaison with the PCEU.

The PCEU in Paris, Mr. Izzat said, had been printing Communist brochures and sending them through the mails to Iraq. Mr. Izzat had extracted several such brochures from a previous "valise" and had presented them to the Iraqi Ambassador who, in turn, had forwarded them to NURI SAID.

Perhaps the strongest Egyptian anti-Communist leader was Mahmoud ABU FATT, former owner of El Misri. Mr. Bouhafa indicated that the British Government had for some time been looking for a likely candidate to succeed Nasser. The only two possibilities which the British came up with were Abu Fatt and Nahas PASHA. Nahas, "of course", was out of the question as far as the British Government was concerned, and Abu Fatt was consequently the only man left.

Funds for the operation of the Committee for a Free Egypt, Mr. Izzat said, came from such wealthy members as Abu Fatt and from the Wafd and the Moslem Brotherhood. The Committee was well established and funds were no problem.

Again, there was no request for United States aid in any way, but both Mr. Bouhafa, and Mr. Izzat appeared interested in sharing their information with the Embassy.



Robert H. McBride
First Secretary of Embassy

Concurrence:  Mr. Stoessel

Enclosures: 

1. Photostats of documents in single copy to Washington & Cairo.
2. Listing of other documents.

Copies to:

Cairo, London, Rome, Tripoli,
Benghazi, Tunis, Rabat.

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Enclosure No. 1
Desp. 694
Paris, France
TO WASHINGTON
SET NO.-1

NOTE RESUME CONCERNANT LE TRAVAIL ACCOMPLI PAR LE
GROUPE DE F. C. R. U. A L'ETRANGER.

- 1°.- Réduction d'une lettre de circonstance : Document 1 A.
- 2°.- Télégramme des saluts fraternelles, publié dans la presse : Document 2 B.
- 3°.- Création de Comités d'amitié à la nationalisation :
Comité de Paris
Comité de Londres
Comité d'Italie : Document 3 A.
- 4°.- Contacts avec les Partis Démocratiques :
- Nouvelle Gauche,
- Parti Communiste
Conférence du Parti Communiste, Paris en Egypte
et dans les Pays Arabes pour obtenir des
télégrammes d'appui à la Conférence (deux
bons télégrammes effectivement envoyés) : Document 4 A.
Document 4 B.
- Parti Progressiste.
- 5°.- Appel d'Intellectuels Français en vue de remplir
le Front des Partis Politiques Français contre
l'Egypte - publié par divers journaux (Monde du
11 Aout 1955) : Document 5 A.
- 6°.- Campagne d'explication auprès d'un grand nombre
d'Intellectuels qui, même si on n'a pu obtenir
leur signature tout à fait au début, ont pris plus
rapidement position un peu plus tard. Une grande
partie de ceux-ci sont à l'heure actuelle disposés
à adhérer à une association d'amitié Franco-Egyptienne.
- 7°) Publication d'un Manifeste adressé à diverses
personnalités, journaux et organisation, destiné à
expliquer la justesse et la légitimité de la na-
tionalisation de la Compagnie du Canal. Manifeste
traduit en langues française, anglaise, et arabe.
Réproduit dans la Presse: exemple = UNITA : Document 6 A.
Document 7 B.

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- 8°.- Lettres d'accompagnement aux maximum de
personnalités et d'organisations Mondiales
Fédération Syndicale Mondiale : Document 8 A
Organisation Intern. des Journalistes : Document 8 B
Fédération Mondiale des Jeunesses Démocratiques : Document 8 C
- Résultats: par exemple, le Bulletin du
Conseil Mondial de la Paix : Document 8 D
- 9°.- Contacts avec les Organisations Françaises
Démocratiques : Document 9 A
Confédération Générale du Travail,
Union des Femmes Françaises.
- 10°.- Un effort particulier en direction des Juristes
pour obtenir des prises de positions. Texte de
l'Abbé Jean Boulier (publié au Liban, en parti-
culier) : Document 10 A
- 11°.- Lettre à de nombreux Juristes en lettre
à M. Gérard LYON-CABRY : Document 11 A
à M. Asharya : Document 11 B
Réponse de Mr. Asharya
- 12°.- Contacts avec l'Association Internationale
des Juristes démocrates : Document 12 A
- 13°) Envois de matériel sur la nationalisation et
sur la Compagnie du Canal à toute la presse
démocratique
France Observateur du 4 Août 1956 : Document 13 A
France-Nouvelle du 15 Août : Document 13 B
- 14°.- Brochure "Egypte" : Document 14 A
- 15°.- Lettre à divers journaux en réponse à des
points soulevés.
Ex. lettre à Beuve-Méry du 22 Août, insérée
paraît-elle dans le Bulletin de l'Ambassade : Document 15 A
- 16°.- Envois à la presse égyptienne, soudanaise, et arabe
des coupures de journaux démocratiques occidentaux
en particulier la presse française/
Services gratuits effectués par HUMANITE,
LIBERATION, FRANCE-OBSERVATEUR, à la presse
Égyptienne.
- 17°.- Seconde note concernant l'Association des Usagers
du Canal de Suez. : Document 17 A

~~Secret~~

- 18°.- Appel au nom du Mouvement Paix Egyptien, au
Peuple Français
Reproduit dans la Presse « UNITA » : Document 18 A.
: Document 18 B.
- 19°.- Appel au nom du Mouvement de la Paix Egyptien
au peuple Italien : Document 19 A.
- 20°.- Diffusion des positions des personnalités de la
Paix Egyptiennes, montrant leur position sur
Suez (il faut relever le fait qu'une forte partie
de la Gauche était au début opposée à l'Egypte.
La diffusion des positions de la Gauche Egyptienne
sur ce problème a contribué à lui faire changer
d'opinion : Document 20 A.
: Document 20 B.
: Document 20 C.
- 21°.- Traduction et diffusion de l'appel des Intellectuels
Egyptiens. : Document 21 A.
- 22°.- Traduction et diffusion de l'Appel du Mouvement
de la Paix Egyptien
- 23°.- Appel au démocrates Israéliens et appel au peuple
d'Israel. (Kifah el Chounh). : Document 23 A.
- 24°.- Campagne auprès des groupements égyptiens, soudanais,
irakiens, etc., en France et en Angleterre.
- 25°.- Diffusion d'articles montrant l'effet des positions
démocratiques dans les pays-arabes : Document 25 A.
- 26°.- Lettre Ouverte à la Revue "Temps Modernes" :
- 27°.- Contacts avec l'Ambassade pour suggestions et
informations diverses.
- 28°.- DIVERS :-
- Photo de la fête de l'UNITA : Document 28 A.
2 Numéros de Démocratie Nouvelle : Document 28 B.
1 No de regard : Document 28 C.
1 No de CAHIERS INTERNATIONAUX : Document 28 D.
2 No du Progressiste (Suisse) : Document 28 E.
1 LA PENSEE : Document 28 F.
1 Cahiers du Communisme : Document 28 G.

le 30 mai 1956, les 1000 tonnes de matériel international
les 100 tonnes de matériel international, le Canal de
Suez. Elle ne peut pas être utilisée pour le Canal.

Lors de l'occupation du Canal, les 1000 tonnes de matériel international
ont été détruites. La ruine du Canal a été
réalisée, les 1000 tonnes de matériel international ont été
réalisées de manière illégale. Cette activité est d'autant
plus grave que la ruine du Canal a été reconnue
comme illégale et doit être reconnue comme illégale.

Aussi, si l'on ne veut pas accepter l'ouverture de
l'économie égyptienne à l'étranger, les 1000 tonnes de matériel international
ont été détruites. La ruine du Canal a été
réalisée, les 1000 tonnes de matériel international ont été
réalisées de manière illégale. Cette activité est d'autant
plus grave que la ruine du Canal a été reconnue
comme illégale et doit être reconnue comme illégale.

1. - Robert BARRAT : Journaliste.
- 20) C. BOUDET : Journaliste - Compagnon de la Libération.
- 30) Jean DEBICH : Professeur à la Sorbonne.
- 40) Irène Joschik : Artiste.
- 50) Charles-André JULIEN : Professeur à la Sorbonne, Membre du P. F. Socialiste.
- 60) G. MARTIN : Journaliste.
- 70) M. le Prof. Louis MASSIGNON : Conseiller de l'Union Française.
- 80) Marcel PASU : Rédacteur en Chef des TEMPS MODERNES.
- 90) Colette ROYENFELD : Conseillère de l'UNION FRANÇAISE, Membre du Parti Socialiste Français.
- 100) R. VAL LAND : Ecrivain.
- 110) V. VASSI - Président Honoraire du Comité National des Français.
- 120) Louis de VI LAFFONT : Ecrivain, ancien Officier de Marine.

Amiral le Poulléec
M. le Maréchal
Etienne
André Gaudet
Michel Lario
Mme Marcelle Auclair
Léon Pierre Quint.

S E C R E T

Page 1
Enclosure No. 2
Desp. No. 694
Paris, France.

- 2 A Telegram to President Nasser and Egyptian newspapers from Egyptian political exiles in France praising nationalization and soliciting general amnesty of political prisoners to reinforce national unity. In French.
- 3 A Pamphlet headed "Suez Canal" - Answers to questions published by the Egyptian Committee for the Suez Canal problem, 4 Chesterfield Gardens, London W.1, and printed by Print for Progress at D.P.C. Works (TU) E.C. 2. In English.
- 4 A Masthead of l'Humanité, 8 September 56, announcing public meeting on the Suez Canal question to be held 13 September. In French.
- 4 B Pamphlet reprinting speech by Marcel SERVIN given at the above meeting. In French.
- 7 A Italian Communist newspaper Unita, 15 August 56, Article on Page 8, datelined Cairo 14 August. In Italian.
- 7 B Document in Arabic.
- 8 A Letter dated Paris 31 July 56, addressed to the WFTU, requesting solidarity with the Egyptian workers and advocating the formation of committees to aid Egypt in order to denounce the campaign of lies and intimidation launched by "a certain press" by means of articles in publications and sending messages to the Egyptian Government and to trade unions. No signature shown. In French.
- 8 B Letter dated Paris 4 August to the I.O.J., much the same as the above but referring to journalists rather than workers and associations of journalists rather than trade unions. No signature. In French.
- 8 C Letter as above to the WFDY referring to Egyptian youth, etc. No signature shown.
- 8 D Bulletin of the World Peace Council, #17, 1 September 56, reprinting, with the articles on Pages 3, 4 and 12 marked. Also Bulletin for 15 September 1956, #18, Pages 3 and 4 marked. In French.
- 9 A Newspaper clipping from L'Humanité, date unknown, headed "Against Recourse to Force An Appeal to the Workers of Fives-Lille". Signed "Humanité Correspondent". In French.
- 11 A Letter dated Paris 10 August 56 advocating that democratic French jurists do everything in their power to see that the spirit of peaceful negotiation triumphs. No signature. In French.

11 B

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Page 2
Enclosure No. 2
Desp. No. 694
Paris, France.

- 11 B Letter dated Paris 26 August. Signature cut out. Letter dated Calcutta August 4; addressee cut out. Second letter includes press release and Indian newspaper clippings. Letters in English.
- 12 A Letter from the International Association of Democratic Lawyers in Brussels, 29 September 56, addressee cut out, enclosing the text of a declaration concerning Suez, addressed by the Association to the United Nations and sent also to "Jurists and Press of the whole world".
- 13 A Article Page 2.
- 13-B- Article Page 5.
- 14 A Brochure, mimeographed, in French. Against military intervention in Egypt. Dated August 56.
- 15 A Letter Paris 22 August 56 to the Director of Le Monde. Reply to a letter published in Le Monde 22 August by the President of the Administrative Committee of the Suez Canal Company.
- 17 A Mimeographed pamphlet in French entitled "Note d'Information of the Parti Communiste Egyptien Unifié" concerning the plan for an association of canal users. This calls on public opinion of all countries to struggle for a negotiated solution to the Suez question - particularly addressed to the French and English people to prevent their governments from launching an adventure that would be fatal for all, and urges French Socialists to bring pressure on their leaders to adopt a policy conforming to the continuous traditions of the French workers' movement and the great Jaures.
- 18 A Appeal of the Egyptian Peace Movement to the French people. Signed "Youssef HELMI". Reprinted as below.
- 18 B Italian Communist Party daily Unita 28 August 56 issue. Article in right-hand corner of Page 1 datelined Cairo 27 August.
- 19 A Appeal to the Italian people by the Egyptian Peace Movement with a typed note in French dated 6 September 1956 (unsigned) saying:
- "Dear Friends: This roneotyped text was printed in 300 copies and was diffused to organizations, parties, and newspapers on a national scale. The Italian Peace Movement, as you can confirm by the attached text appearing in Unita on 5 September (Note: Not attached to the

documents

S E C R E T

Page 3
Enclosure No. 2
Desp. No. 694
Paris, France.

documents) has taken a position on the question. The movement is developing itself well and I can tell you that MORSI (fnu) has spared no effort to arrive at this result. At the Unita Festival the Italian Communist Party and Peace Movement are giving very special attention to the pavillon of the Suez Canal. FIRMIN (fnu) has prepared an article which has been sent to Unita. He proposes to approach political personalities, as well as newspapers, to discuss the question. After discussion here with him, FIRMIN will undertake discussion with the Neni socialists to make them withdraw from their idea of a Nasser/Hitler. At the last meeting of the Provincial Committee for the Partisans of Peace where MORSI was heard it was decided to send a delegation to the English and French Consulates to demonstrate the protest of the Partisans of Peace of Milan and to send a delegation to the Egyptian Consulate to give support to the Egyptian cause in the Canal affair. Press conference to be given by FIRMIN (Note: the words "by FIRMIN" were struck out in blue ink), but he has asked to think it over before doing so." (This note was unsigned)

- 20 A Typescript entitled "Partisans of Peace in the World Support Egypt". Appeal in favor of a world congress to prevent war. Dated Al-Gomhouryah - 8 August 56. It states, in French, that Kamel EL BINDARI, ex-Egyptian Ambassador to Moscow, sent a telegram to the World Council of Peace and gives the text of the telegram.
- 20 B Article published by the journal Al Gomhourish on 13 August 56 in Cairo entitled "Manifesto of the Partisans of Peace".
- 20 C Message addressed by the Egyptian Communist political prisoners to President Nasser from the Prison des Oasis de Kharga dated 28 July 56.
- 25 A Translation into French of an article appearing in Arabic in a Lebanese newspaper Al Dyar on 7 August. Signed Ahmed SADEK.
- 28 A Photo from Unita, 10 September 56.
- 28 B Democratie Nouvelle issue #9, September 56, containing an article on Suez. Also Issue #10 of October 56.
- 28 C Regards, #410, article entitled "Suez- Egyptian Territory".
- 28 D Cahiers Internationaux #79, September-October 56, article on Suez crisis.

S E C R E T

Page 4

Enclosure No. 2

Desp. No. 694

Paris, France.

28 E Le Progressiste, 31 August 56 and 7 September 56, Geneva.

28 F La Pensee, September - October 56, #69, Paris.

28 G Cahiers du Communisme, October 56, #10.

Note: On the outside cover of the folder containing these papers was written: "Documents PCEU".

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1/2/5

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To Rountree

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AIR

FROM: Paris (Via Pouch)

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2223, November 6

SENT DEPARTMENT 2223; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON, CAIRO, ROME, TRIPOLI, BENGHAZI, TUNIS, RABAT UNNUMBERED

Embassy forwarding personal letter from Mahmoud Aboul Fath addressed to President dated November 5 in which Fath protests Israeli "unprovoked attack against territory and people Egypt, also actions of unprovoked aggression France, UK".

Letter welcomes UN condemnation "these aggressions upon Peace-loving people already subdued by dictatorial regime". Fath, "in behalf Wafd Party and majority of people", denounces collective aggression in violation UN Charter. Letter states UN is sole organization responsible maintenance international peace, security, and "being subjected to police state with complete denial democratic freedoms", Egyptian people not responsible for differences between "three Western powers" and "present Egyptian regime". Although France, UK responsible for serious events in Egypt, responsibility must be shared by US which, in collusion with UK, has done utmost last three years to consolidate dictatorial regime. In closing, Fath states: "In interests international peace, conciliation assurances must be formally given that cease-fire must be followed by evacuation Egyptian territory with establishment of status quo existing before aggression."

Letter transmitted by Bouhafa, New York Representative for Committee of Freedom for Africa.

Fath reportedly is former editor defunct Al Misri, now in exile and currently in Paris, contributes generously to Committee for Free Egypt (EMBDESP 694), officially entrusted by Nahas Pasha with representing Wafd Party abroad, and considered (by Bouhafa) as most likely British selection for successor to Nasser.

Excerpts this letter, reportedly also sent Eden and Mollet, just appeared press this afternoon.

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Department of State

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32
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FROM: Paris (Via Pouch)

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2307, November 9, 1 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 2307, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV JNNUMBERED.

Egyptian Senator Mahmoud Aboul Fath (EMBTel 2223) accompanied by Bouhafa called at Embassy Officer's home last night.

Aboul Fath, former owner AL MISRI and expelled by Nasser in 1954, recently moved to Monte Carlo from Geneva to escape assassination plot and surveillance by 20 Egyptian officers. Aboul Fath claimed Nasser took above precautions after Aboul Fath addressed two letters to Eisenhower just prior to Summit Conference warning him of Communist infiltration Egypt and dictatorial aspirations Nasser.

Fath laid entire blame Communist penetration Egypt, Syria on Nasser. Although yesterday Nasser's prestige had crumbled with his Army and Air Force, Bulganin's support was now sending Nasser's prestige skyrocketing. If Communism is to be kept out of Near East, Nasser must go, Fath said, and US is only power strong enough to topple him.

Fath urged US immediately to take following steps: (1) isolate Egypt from any Russian military assistance; (2) deploy US Navy off Egyptian coast until last foreign troops leave Egyptian soil; and (3) issue public statement assuring solidarity of US with people of Egypt who have been led astray by present regime.

Fath said every Egyptian was opposed to Nasser regime but was powerless to rise up against him. Egyptian Embassies in Arab World had spent untold sums on Nasser propaganda and Egyptian Ambassador Damascus told Fath that Embassy had distributed 500,000 pictures of Nasser to shopkeepers gratis. Already pictures were coming down.

Very recent arrival from Syria confirmed to Fath that sixty Russian MIGS, with technicians and pilots, had already arrived Syria and more expected. Same source, without specifying details of how or where, stated Syria would attach "in 7 or 8 days".

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 2, 1957

DATE

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JUL 5 1957

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SUBJECT: Communism in Egypt

There is transmitted attached a self-explanatory article which was written by Alberto JACOVIELLO and appeared in the Communist UNITA on May 14, 1957.

This article is primarily of interest in that the Egyptian Communists according to Jacoviello stand squarely behind Nasser and the National Front.

For the Ambassador:

V. Lansing Collins, Jr.
V. Lansing Collins, Jr.
First Secretary of Embassy

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TRANSLATION

ALBERTO JACOVIELLO'S TRIP IN THE ARAB WORLD
TOWARDS THE CREATION IN EGYPT OF A SOLE COMMUNIST PARTY -
INTERVIEW WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE "COORDINATION COMMITTEE"
OF THE VARIOUS COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS - A DARK PERIOD OF
SPLITS AND BITTER STRUGGLES COMES TO AN END - THE PROGRAM
OF THE PARTY

Source: L'UNITA issue of May 14, 1957

In the course of my stay in Cairo I learned that among the various Communist organizations a "Coordination Committee" has been set up. Its major task is the laying of the foundations of a sole party for the Egyptian Communists. This event will involve far reaching repercussions. If, indeed, the efforts made along these lines are crowned with success, as they will be in all probability, for the Egyptian Communists a dark period featured by splits and fratricidal struggles - which constituted, (in spite of the indefatigable and often heroic work performed by the militant membership who by the hundreds have paid with imprisonment for their devotion to the Socialist ideal), the major obstacle against the development of a great Communist movement - will come to an end.

Therefore, I felt it was useful to ask the companions who belong to the "Coordination Committee" a few questions. The answers are the result of a joint elaboration and must be seen, therefore, as a common judgement voiced about the situation in Egypt by the various Communist organizations.

Q.: "Is the Egyptian Communist Movement, judging by the establishment and regular operation of a "Coordination Committee" heading for the creation of a sole Communist party? What facts have favored this important evolution?"

A.: "It is clear now that the struggles waged among the various Marxist organizations have weakened the Egyptian Labor Movement. The contradictory passwords which were disseminated by the various self-styled Marxist groups threw the masses into confusion, made them lose their bearings and destroyed the confidence they might have had in Communism. On the other hand the existence of many Communist organizations afforded the opportunity for the infiltration of agents provocateurs and spies of the police as well as of agents of imperialism; this prevented the proletariat from playing a directive role at the political Egyptian level, a most important thing under the present circumstances. Indeed, the Egyptian policy is characterized by two elements, viz: the national bourgeoisie now making an all out effort against imperialism and the latter which is trying to stop by any means this struggle and overthrow the Government of Nasser. The Nasser Government cannot survive unless it will be permitted to count on the assistance of the Socialist countries and on the support from a vast front at the domestic level. It is obvious that the proletarians must contribute to this front through their experience, combativeness and revolutionary doctrine. Conversely, any weakness of the proletariat would

involve immediate and direct repercussions on the whole national front. Likewise, it is clear that in an epoch in which Socialism has become a system of world-wide importance, the liquidation of any imperialistic influence in Egypt is an urgent task and a goal which can be easily attained. The national front is, in this struggle, the fundamental weapon. The strengthening of the proletariat implies the strengthening of the national front which in turn will secure the conditions for the final victory. It follows that the elimination of all the elements which contribute to the weakness of the proletariat, the disagreements among the Communists first of all, is a problem of vital importance which can be solved today. Indeed, the disagreements in being among the various organizations are no longer so bitter. They were largely hinged on the definition of the role to be assumed by the bourgeoisie inside the national movement. Well, in this field we have reached an agreement on an essential point: in the present domestic and world conjunction the national bourgeoisie is heading the struggle for the independence of the country.

The XX Congress of PCUS confirmed, on the other hand, that the defense of Marxist-Leninist doctrine must not be performed on the basis of a rigid and sectarian dogmatism. The force of this doctrine is such as to make it triumph over any deviation. For instance, the continuation of the present splits in the Marxist field in Egypt is no longer conceivable nor it can be argued that unity is feasible only among those who entertain the same views on given points. On the contrary, we believe the ideological struggle performed within the party must be construed as a proof of its political maturity and of its actual unity. Finally, the new work opportunities make of the unification a must, through the unification the masses will no longer be offered the sickening sight of Marxists tearing themselves apart; .. and the fact that a strict clandestineness of contracts among the various Communist memberships is no longer needed, will make this task easier."

Q.: "On what programmatic basis, in your opinion, the future Communist party must be established?"

A.: "In broad lines the program should be as follows: safeguard and consolidation of the national independence, active defense of peace, strengthening of the unity of the Arab countries that freed themselves from the imperialistic domination, liquidation of the feudalistic residuals, elimination of the power of the monopolies, respect of Democracy and consolidation of its basis, development of a modern national economy, raising of the living standards of the population, social and cultural reforms."

Q.: "What is your opinion on the present domestic situation in Egypt and what are, according to you, the outlooks relative to the organization in Egypt of a society effectively protected against an offensive comeback of imperialism?"

A.: "Our point of view relative to the domestic situation in Egypt is featured by the booming success secured by the national movement. For the first time in the history of modern Egypt we have a national government that defends the interests of the country and that enjoys the substantial support from a vast alliance inclusive of the working class, the small bourgeoisie and the national

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Page 3 of

Encl. No. 1

Desp. No. 21

From ROME

bourgeoisie. The government of Nasser at the head of this front has waged a victorious struggle against imperialism, the stages of this struggle have been as follows: evacuation of foreign troops, liquidation of the British basis at Suez, nationalization of the Canal, elimination of the British and French domination on the Egyptian coast.

In defending its independence Egypt is trying to build up a domestic economy in which the public sector plays a leading role jointly with the co-operative sector (sic); it also is trying to give itself a Democratic political regime with the exclusion of the reactionaries and the agents of imperialism. Imperialism is reacting violently and aims at, by any means, preventing the enjoyment of peace and freedom in Egypt. After having exerted fierce pressure it (imperialism) made recourse to armed aggression. Currently, imperialism is trying to organize plots inside the country and to break the front of the free Arab countries, at the same time, it continues the economic war against Egypt and develops new plans of aggression.

We will be able to face this offensive successfully on condition that: the National Front become an organizational and official reality, the representatives of the people whom will be elected in the future perform their duties at the Parliament and in the local Administrations, the most urgent problems (unemployment and procurements) be solved in an expeditious and effective way, the set up of the State be reorganized with the elimination of the reactionaries and the agents of imperialism, the armed forces be enabled to check aggression, the ties with the free Arab countries be cemented and the cooperation between Egypt between the Socialist as well as the Afro-Asiatic countries be furthered.

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FROM: Cairo

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 599, August 31

Control: 20308

Rec'd: August 31, 1957
2:44 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 599; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON, PARIS UNNUMBERED

AHRAM August 30 reports indictment for trial by military court of sixteen men and two women under charges of joining "Egyptian Communist Party" underground. Investigation initiated February 6 uncovered mimeograph machines in homes defendants and leaflets for mail distribution. Of forty originally arrested only 18 charged. Indictment by chief state security prosecutor accused them of "joining and directing organization aimed at enforcing domination of certain class over other classes at overthrowing basic social and economic systems of country by force, terrorism and illegal methods". Some have confessed but others denying charge. Accused include 5 workers, 5 students, 3 teachers, 1 weekly magazine editor, 1 cartoonist, 1 government employee in tax department, 1 commission merchant and 1 unemployed.

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LWS

In reply refer to
NEA:NE

September 11 1957

Dear George:

In response to your question to me by telephone on Friday,
we do not have from any source the names of the 18 arrested in
Egypt for Communist activity. Should they come in in available
form, I will send them on.

I hope you will come to see us when you are next in
Washington.

Sincerely yours,

62
David D. Newson
Officer in Charge
Arabian Peninsula and Iraq Affairs

Professor George Lomonoski,
771 [redacted] Avenue,
Berkeley 8, California.

NEA:NE:DDNewson:apg
9/10/57

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

September 13, 1957
DATE

REF : Embassy Telegram 599 of August 31, 1957.

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SUBJECT: Recent Indictment of Eighteen Alleged Communists.

There is transmitted herewith in free translation the summary of the Al Ahram article of August 30 which made public the news of the Egyptian Government's indictment of eighteen alleged Communists and which gives the names and occupations of the accused.

Apparently these eighteen were among approximately forty persons arrested in February 1957. It is possible, therefore, that President NASSER may have been alluding to this group when he told Ambassador Hare that he had been preparing to crackdown on local Communists in late June until he learned that anti-government leaflets of American origin were being circulated (Embassy telegrams No. 22 of July 2 and No. 608 of September 1, 1957).

Several rumors are circulating which purport to explain why the Egyptian Government has apparently decided to proceed with the trial at this particular time. One is that preparation of the formal indictment was delayed by procrastination on the part of the State Security Prosecutor's office until the Minister of Interior, embarrassed by a question from the floor of the National Assembly concerning the status of political detainees, insisted upon immediate action by the Prosecutor. Another rumor asserts that it was not intended that the indictments be announced at this time and that the Minister of Interior was extremely irritated with the Prosecutor for releasing the information without authorization. Still another rumor is that the Egyptian Government has decided to hold the trial now to show its annoyance with the Soviet Union for having concluded an agreement with Syria without consulting the Egyptians.

Al Ahram was quick to make use of the announcement to defend Egypt's policy of "positive neutralism", pointing out in an editorial on August 31 (translation enclosed) that while positive neutralism prompted Egypt to oppose the Eisenhower Doctrine it has also prompted Egypt to combat Communists for trial. However, there appear to have been no further editorials on this subject, either in Al Ahram or elsewhere in the Cairo press.

Enclosures: *att*

1. Al Ahram article of August 30, 1957.
2. Al Ahram editorial of August 31, 1957.

GJ Beckman / CG Ross / lb. P. Hart
REPORTER

For the Ambassador:

Claude G. Ross

Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

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Summary of Article Appearing in Al Ahram on August 30, 1957

Eighteen persons have been formally indicted for trial before a military court on charges of joining the "Egyptian Communist Party".

The accused listed in the indictment issued by Chief State Security Prosecutor Sayed Mustafa El-Hilbawy were:

Salah Ibrahim Ali, worker at a printing shop
Bahia Abdel-Wahab Abu-Nasr, a schoolmistress
Awatef Seif Mikhail, a secondary school girl student
Mounir Filubbus Ayyad, a Tax Department employee
Maurice Filubbus Ayyad, a teacher
Adel Mohamed Ali, a teacher
Maged Attia Muaawad, a journalist for a weekly publication
Naguib Zaki, a painter
Shawky Khalil Barsoum, an agricultural worker
Hassan Nathan Danial, a student
Kamel Abdullah Guirguis, unemployed
Ramzy Youssef, a commission agent
Maher Samaan, a Cairo University student
Fahmy Abdel-Mo'ty El-Naklawy, a worker
Mohamed Hafez Mustafa, a worker
Taha Mohamed Ali, a worker
Kamal Mohamed Ammar, a student
Mahmoud Mohamed Khalil, a student

The indictment charged them with "joining and directing" an organization for the domination of a certain class over other classes, and for overthrowing the basic social and economic system of the nation "by force, terrorism and illegal methods". It stated further that they had joined the "Egyptian Communist Party's underground" with the intention of promoting Communist ideology.

This case, which was under investigation from February 6, 1957, resulted in the seizure of mimeograph machines and leaflets for circulation by mail, and led to the arrest of about 40 persons, only 18 of whom were found to be implicated and were formally charged. Some of the accused confessed joining the "Egyptian Communist Party" while others are denying the charge.

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Comprehensive Summary of Editorial Appearing in Al Ahram on August 31, 1957.

THIS IS POSITIVE NEUTRALISM

The State Security Parquet has committed for trial before a military court 18 persons accused of complicity in organizing a secret society known as the Communist Party whose aim is to apply Communist principles.

"The Parquet has charged them with running an organization whose object is to have a particular social class dominate other classes.

"This is the truth about positive neutralism.

"Egypt, which opposes U.S. policy including the Eisenhower Doctrine and which refuses to agree to participate, at the same time prohibits Communism in her territory, taking Communists into custody and committing them for trial.

"Egypt pursues a policy of positive neutralism because she firmly believes in it and is resolved to defend it.

"Egypt rejects both American and Communist doctrines, adhering only to Egyptian and Arab principles completely and absolutely free from any foreign color.

"Egypt strongly opposes any attempt to import foreign principles inflicting the most severe punishment upon importers who may be tempted to resort to trafficking with them in this country. She does not care where the prohibited doctrine comes from and severely punishes the importer!

"Egypt today prepared her own principles locally for her citizens and pursues those who advocate other principles, all other principles without exception or distinction!

"America made a tremendous uproar when Egypt concluded an arms deal with the Soviet Union, alleging that she has turned red and Egypt's capital is no longer Cairo but Moscow. This was said by Eisenhower, reaffirmed by Foster Dulles and given splash frontpage coverage by the American press.

"Egypt has not replied, nor has she denied the allegation because she has always been convinced of the fact that she is advocating a new international creed and, in doing so, like all prophets and missionaries, she is bound to meet with strong opposition and attempts at coercion.

"This is positive neutralism as Egypt conceives it which has prompted her to take up a firm stand against the Eisenhower Doctrine whose aim is to impose domination. It is the same principle that has prompted her to commit Communists for trial.

"It is an up-hill path but Egypt and several other peoples firmly believe it to be the only path leading to salvation".

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Department of State

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PRESS TODAY ANNOUNCES 6 SEPARATE CASES INVOLVING 30 PERSONS CHARGED WITH COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES EGYPT WILL COME BEFORE MILITARY COURTS NEAR FUTURE. BIGGEST THAT OF 18 PERSONS RECENTLY INDICTED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN OUTLAWED EGYPTIAN COMMUNIST PARTY UNDERGROUND (EMBASSY TELEGRAM 599) WHOSE TRIAL WILL BEGIN OCTOBER 12 BEFORE SUPREME MILITARY COURT. PROSECUTOR WILL REPORTEDLY DEMAND LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITH HARD LABOR FOR 14 ACCUSED WITH LESSER TERMS FOR OTHERS.

SECOND CASE CONCERNS 5 PERSONS ACCUSED OF BEING MEMBERS EGYPTIAN COMMUNIST PARTY ALEXANDRIA WHO, PRESS STATES, WERE ARRESTED 3 YEARS AGO. REMAINING 4 CASES INVOLVE 7 PERSONS CHARGED WITH "PROPAGATING SUBVERSIVE IDEOLOGY". ACCORDING PRESS ONLY 4 DEFENDENTS IN ALL 6 CASES IN CUSTODY. "RESPONSIBLE SOURCE" QUOTED EFFECT THAT WITH DISCOVERY THESE ELEMENTS EGYPTIAN POLICE HAVE APPREHENDED HARD CORE UNDERGROUND COMMUNIST PARTY IN EGYPT.

THIS STORY BREAKS CONSPICUOUS SILENCE THAT FOLLOWED AHAM STORY AUGUST 30 (EMBASSY TELEGRAM 599) AND OCCASIONED SPATE OF RUMORS REFERENCE GOE INTENTIONS (EMBASSY DESPATCH 215). EMBASSY OFFICER INFORMED BY ONE EIDTOR THAT GOE, HAVING ORIGINALLY IMPOSED STRICT BAN ON SUBJECT, SUDDENLY LIFTED IT LATE YESTERDAY TELLING PAPERS PRINT STORY.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : U - Mr. W. Clyde Dunn

DATE: November 12, 1957

VIA : DRN/OC - Mr. Robert D. Baum *ROD*
FROM : DRN - H.W. Glidden *HWG*

SUBJECT: Request for Information on Arrested Egyptian Communists

In reply to your request of today, we attach herewith a list of the arrested persons in question. This information was obtained from the Cairo daily al-Ahram of November 1, 1957. All are presumed to be Egyptian citizens.

List of Individuals Arrested for Communism in Cairo, 10/31/57

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Sentence</u>	<u>Presumed Religion</u>
Tahiyah 'Abd al-Wahhab Abu al-Nasr (female)	Teacher	Zaqaziq	3 years and 200 pounds	Muslim
'Awatif Sayf Mikha'il (female)	Student	Cairo	3 years and 200 pounds	Copt <i>CR</i>
Salah Ibrahim 'Ali	Laborer		7 years hard labor, 200- pound fine	Muslim
Munir Filibus 'Ayyad	University student		" " " "	Copt
'Adil Muhammad 'Ali	Teacher		" " " "	Muslim
Shawqi Khalil Barsum	Agriculturalist		" " " "	Christian (Syrian)
Ramzi Yusuf 'Abd al-Sayyid	Student		" " " "	Copt
Kamil 'Abdullah Girgis	Student		5 yrs. hard labor, 200- pound fine	Copt
Hasan Natan Daniyal	Secondary school student		3 yrs. in- prisonment, 200-pound fine	Jew
Mahtr Sim'an Ishaq	Student		" " " "	Christian

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Sentence</u>	<u>Presumed Religion</u>
Nagib Zaki Sidrak	Unemployed		3 years im- prisonment, 100-pound fine	C ?
Kamal Muhammad 'Ammar	Al-Azhar student		3 years im- prisonment, 100-pound fine	Muslim
Fahmi al-Niklawi	Laborer		3 years im- prisonment, 100-pound fine	Muslim ?
Mawris Filibus 'Ayyad	Tax official		Acquitted	Copt
Magid 'Atiyah Mu'awwad			"	" ?
Muhammad Hafiz Mustafa	Laborer		"	Muslim
Taha Muhammad 'Ali	Army Noncom		"	Muslim
Mahmud Muhammad Khalil	Al-Azhar student		"	Muslim

(The sentences were pronounced against 'Adil, Ramzi, Sidrak, and al-Niklawi in absentia.)

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November 21 1957

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Dear Dr. Lenczowski:

I understand from our Embassy in Cairo that you have expressed an interest in obtaining the names of those eighteen individuals who were arrested for communism in Egypt and have recently been tried and sentenced. I am enclosing for your information a list of these individuals including their occupations, residences, sentences and present religion. I hope that this material, which was taken from the November 1 issue of the Cairo daily newspaper al-Ahram, will prove useful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Stuart W. Roekwell
Director
Office of Near Eastern Affairs

Enclosure:

✓ List of individuals

Dr. George Lenczowski,
Associate Professor of Political Science,
University of California,
Berkeley 4, California.

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List of Individuals Arrested for Communism in Cairo, 10/31/57

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Sentence</u>	<u>Presumed Religion</u>
Tahiyah 'Abd al-Wahhab Abu al-Nasr (female)	Teacher	Zagazig	3 years and 200 pounds	Muslim
'Awatif Sayf Mikha' il (female)	Student	Cairo	3 years and 200 pounds	Copt
Salah Ibrahim 'Ali	Laborer		7 years hard labor, 200- pound fine	Muslim
Munir Filibus 'Ayyad	University Student		" " "	Copt
'Adil Muhammad 'Ali	Teacher		" " "	Muslim
Sharqi Khalil Baroun	Agriculturalist		" " "	Christian (Syrian)
Ramzi Yusuf 'Abd al-Sayyid	Student		" " "	Copt
Hamil 'Abdullah Girgis	Student		5 yrs. hard labor, 200- pound fine	Copt
Hasan Natan Daniyal	Secondary school student		3 yrs. in- prisonment, 200-pound fine	Jew
Mahir Sim'an Ishaq	Student		" " "	Christian
Magib Saki Sidrak	Unemployed		2 years in- prisonment, 100-pound fine	?
Kamal Muhammad 'Anwar	Al-Ashar		3 years in- prisonment, 100-pound fine	Muslim
Fahmi al-Niklawi	Laborer		3 years in- prisonment, 100-pound fine	Muslim ?
Munir Filibus 'Ayyad	Tax Official		Acquitted	Copt
Magid 'Atiyah Ma'moud			" "	" ?

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Sentence</u>	<u>Pronounced Religion</u>
Muhammad Hafis Mustafa	Laborer		Acquitted	Muslim
Taha Muhammad 'Ali	Army Noncom		"	Muslim
Mahmud Muhammad Khalil	Al-Ashar student		"	Muslim

(The sentences were pronounced against 'Adil, Ramzi, Sidrak, and al-Niklawi in absentia.)

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 26, 1958

DATE

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SUBJECT: Six Sentenced for Communist Activity.

Six Egyptians have been sentenced to prison terms and fines for Communist activities in four cases recently tried before the Cairo Supreme Military Court. Two others were acquitted. The accused were charged with forming Communist cells, propagating Communist doctrine and seeking to induce others to join the Egyptian Communist Party.

Sentenced:

1. Ali Mohamad Fathi Abd al GHANA, 3 years and LE 50 fine.
2. Mohamed Al Akhdar Al NAGGAR, 3 years and LE 50 fine.
3. Issa Ahmed ISSA, textile worker, 2 years and LE 50 fine.
4. Mohamed ANWAR, student, one year and LE 50 fine.
5. Naguib Sirri MOHAMED, teacher, one year and LE 50 fine.
6. Ibrahim Hassan Ali IBRAHIM, student, one year suspended sentence and LE 50 fine.

Acquitted:

1. Abd Al Rahman ABBAS, student.
2. Saad Abd Al LATIF, teacher.

The court was composed of Mahmoud Hassan OMAR, Ahmed Fuad SIRRI, Mohamed Abd Al SALAM, Brig. Mohamed Taher AL MUGI and Col. Abd Al Megid BAHGAT.

These brief details appeared in Al Ahram and Al Akhbar February 18. No other information is available. The cases are probably routine examples of the NASSER regime's continuing efforts to cope with illegal Communist Party activities (Embassy Despatch 485, November 13, 1957).

For the Ambassador:

Claude G. Ross

Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

PO Sheel/kb

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